



CQ, CQ... BIG WEEKEND OF AMATEUR RADIO COLLABORATIONS!

Another successful Skywarn Recognition Day (SRD) was achieved at the National Weather Service Tampa Bay, while concurrently participating at the Tampa HAM Fest 2011 at the Manatee Civic Center. The 2011 edition of SRD took place from Friday December 2 starting at 7 pm EST, and ran through Saturday December 3 at 7 pm EST. During this 24 hour time period amateur radio volunteers from different radio clubs around the Tampa Bay Area visited the National Weather Service office to operate the radio units and take contacts from all over the world (Fig. 1). A total of 257 contacts were made achieving QSLs as far as Italy, Estonia and Australia.

Sun City Center ARES/RACES President William Barron (W1WAB), and Bill Miller (N1CDO) operated the HF rig throughout much of the event, while Cameron Badget (K1ACB) from the Pinellas Amateur Radio Club and Jason Triolo (KD4ACG) took turns at the VHF and Echolink units. In addition, HAM-licensed meteorologists from the Weather Office also contributed to the festivities making contacts via Echolink and VHF.



Figure 1. (right-to-left) Jason Triolo (KD4ACG), Bill Barron (W1WAB), Jim Key (KI4TMX), Bill Miller (N1CDO), Meteorologist Anthony Reynes (KJ4FUO), and Cameron Badget (K1ACB) at the height of Skywarn Recognition Day on Dec 3rd 2011.



Figure 2. Left: informational display with instructions for SRD 2011 operations.
 Right: Skywarn Net Controller Bill Miller (N1CDO) making contacts on HF.



The Amateur Radio festivities continued through the weekend with a comprehensive informational NWS booth at the Tampa HAM Fest on Dec 3-4, a yearly event that attracts amateur radio enthusiasts from all over Central and Southwest Florida. Meteorologists Ernie Jillson (KJ4FUJ) and NWS Amateur Radio Program Coordinator Anthony Reynes (KJ4FUO) operated the booth during both days distributing important informational material for hazardous weather awareness and preparedness.



Figure 3. NWS Tampa Bay informational booth at the Tampa Bay HAM Fest in the Manatee Civic Center, Palmetto Fl. This yearly event is the area's biggest Amateur radio gathering, bringing Hams from all over Central and Southwest Florida. Meteorologists Ernie Jillson (left) and Anthony Reynes (right) manned the NWS booth distributing material and answering questions from the HAM crowds.



The event culminated with a Skywarn Spotter Certification class on Sunday Dec 4, where a total of 12 new spotters received their certifications as official National Weather Service field spotters (Fig. 4)

Events like Skywarn Recognition Day and the Tampa Bay Ham Fest offer a unique opportunity for further strengthening collaborations with the Amateur Radio Community throughout Central and Southwestern Florida. And until next year...CQ, CQ!



Figure 4. Seven of the 12 newly certified Skywarn Spotters from the Dec 4 class at the Tampa HAM fest.



Figure 5. Meteorologist Nicole Carlisle (KJ4FUG) joins Anthony Reynes and Bill Barron, while the Surfing Santa and the CQ monkey pose in the background.

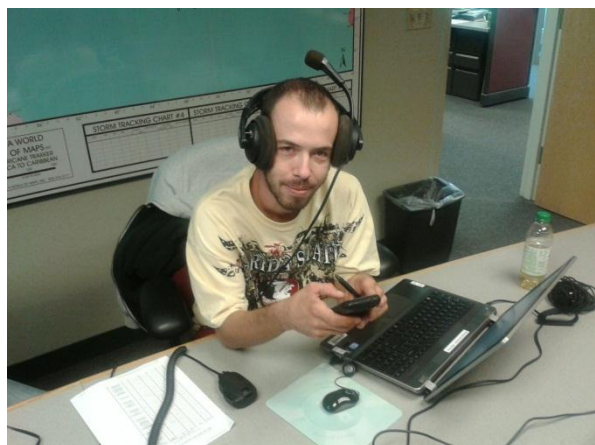


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N2EFN	7130.0	CU6GT	0138 03 Dec
UR8GM-@	7036.3	UP20TG	0138 03 Dec
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W14L	7164.0	WX4MLB	0136 03 Dec
VE3AJ	7056.3	W4CU	0134 03 Dec
W2XB	7029.4	HA60JK	0133 03 Dec
YY5DAR	7150.1	FG/DM1DZ	0132 03 Dec
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